PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

OF THE

COMMENCEMENT AND PROGRESS

OF THE

INSURRECTION

OF THE

NEGROES

The second N

ST. DOMINGO,

WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST, 1791:

Being a TRANSLATION of the SPEECH

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,

The 3d of NOVEMBER, 1791,

PUTIES

FROM THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE FRENCH PART OF

ST. DOMINGO.

THE SECOND EDITION,
With Notes and an Appendix, containing Extracts from other
authentic Papers.

Felix quem, faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

PRINTED FOR J. SEWELL, NO. 32, CORNELLS.

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At once to excite the compassionate attention of the public to the sufferings of our neighbours and to warn the British nation against

HE translator of the following papers. relative to the dilafters of St. Domingo. earnestly recommends their attentive perusal to every thinking, dispassionate, Englishman. They are faithful transcripts of authentic real cords; and, however questioned by those who have an interest in discrediting them, have too melancholy a foundation in notorious facts. The principal piece is a literal translation; the extracts are no where fallified by the pen of exaggeration or of difingenuity, as will appear on comparison with the original pieces. popular talents of Mr. Briffot, and other leaders of the National Assembly, eminently diftinguished among the Amis des Noirs, have scarcely afforded, to the arguments and evidence of the St. Domingo deputies, an impartial hearing; * for which reason, and as the suffering party is often suspected of an unfair attack upon the passions, the translator has fubjoined. in the Appendix, a great part of the speech of Mr. Bertrand, the present marine minister of France, upon this very subject. + It is to be presumed that be could neither want

[•] Vide appendix (E.) † Vide appendix (F.)

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of the public to the sufferings of our neighbours and to warn the British nation against fimilar ruin, originating in like principles and practices, is the object of the prefent publication. Though touched by the contagion, our vital parts it is to be dioped, are yet foundin buts " when our neighour's house it on ficavit con never be amifs to play a little upon our have an interest in discreding them, have will

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"The municipality of Limbs proposed to M. Chairaud's HE General Assembly of the French part of St. Don mingo has appointed us a deputation to address you In that character, our first duty is to assure you of the inviolable attatchment of this important part of the empire to the mother-country, before we describe to you the terrible events which are now working its destruction, and solicis the early lieft and most effectual succour, to save, if it be yet possible; its wretched remains.

Long have we forefren the will which afflict us, and which, doubtless, will end in our annihilation, if the national juitice and power interpole not speedily for our relief.

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tion at Limbe.

We come to lay before you some particulars which yet will give but an impersect idea of our disasters and of our situation.

The General Assembly of the French part of St. Domingo, after having been constituted at Leogane, had appointed to hold its sessions in the town of the Cape. The deputies were gradually assembling there for the purposes of their mission.

Several of them arriving on the 16th (August) at the district of Limbé, distant six leagues from the Cape, were there witnesses of the burning of a trash-house on Chabaud's plantation.

The incendiary was a negro-driver of Desgrieux's plantation. Armed with a cutlass, he fled; M. Chabaud saw, pursued, and overtook, him; they fought; the negro was wounded, taken, and put in irons.

Being interrogated, he deposed, "that all the drivers, coachmen, domestics, and confidential negroes, of the neighbouring plantations and adjacent districts, had formed a plot to set fire to the plantations and to murder all the whites." He marked out, as ring-leaders, several negroes of his master's plantation, sour of Flaville's, (situated at Acal, three leagues from the Cape,) and the negro Paul, criver on Blin's plantation at Limbé.

The municipality of Limbé proceeded to M. Chabaud's; and, on putting the same questions, received the like answers from the incendiary negro. The municipality presented the examination, in form of a verbal process, to the Northern Provincial Assembly; and, informing Flaville's attorney (or manager) of the names of the conspirators that were about him, advised his securing and lodging them in the prison of the Cape.

The French word is communitary fignifying a negro trufted with the care of a finall party when at work, non-children our one in one live statement This live and property in the case of the care of t

This man, of a mild and gentle disposition, inclined more to confidence than suspicion, assembled the negroes under his command, and, communicating the information he had received from the municipality, told them he could not give credit to a plot fo atrocious, and offered them his head if they defired it. With one voice they answered, that the deposition of Delgrieux's driver was a detestable calumny, and swore an inviolable attachment to their manager. He had the weakness to believe them, and his credulity has been our ruin. The municipality of Limbé demanded from M. Planteau, attorney of Blin's plantation, that they might examine the negro Paul. This flave, being interrogated, replied, " That the accusation brought against him was false and injurious; that, full of gratitude to his mafter, from whom he was daily experiencing acts of kindness, he would never be found concerned in plots that might be framed against the existence of the whites and against their property."

In return for this perfidious declaration, and under affurance from M. Planteau that Paul deserved credit, he was released.

In this state matters continued till the 21st, when the public force of Limbé, at the requisition of the municipality, proceeded to Desgrieux's plantation, to take into custody the negro cook, accused of being a ringleader: the negro sled; found out the negro Paul, of Blin's plantation, and, in conjunction with the other conspirators, they prepared fire and sword, destined for the completion of their horrible designs.

In the night, between the 22d and 23d, twelve negroes reached the fugar-house of Noss plantation at Acul, seized upon the apprentice refiner; dragged him before the great house, where he expired under their wounds. His cries brought out the attorney of the estate, who was laid breathless on the ground by two musket-balls. The wretches proceeded to the apartment of the head refiner, and assalinated him in his hed. A young man, lying sick in a neighbouring cham-

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ber, they left for dead under the blows of their cutlaffes; vet he had frength to crawl to the next plantation, where he related the horrors he had wieneffed, and that the Jurgeen only was spared; an exception which was repeated in respect to the furgeons in general, of whole abilities the negroes had reokohed they might thand in need, morous of told a of there

of the plunderers proceeded to Clement's plantation,

there killed the proprietor and the refiner.

Day began to break, and favoured the junction of the illdissoled, who, spread over the plain, with dreadful shouts, let fire to houses and canes, and maffacred the inhabitants.

On that same night the revolt had broken out on the three plantations of Galifet. At one of which, the blacks, with arms in their hands, made way into the chamber of the refiner, with a delign to affaffinate him, but only wounded him in the arm; favoured by the night, he escaped, and ran to the great house. The whites, who resided there, united for M. Odeluc, a member of the General Affemtheir defence. bly, and attorney for the concerns of Galifet, came to the Cape, and gave information there of the infurrection of his negroes. Escorted by the patrole, he reached the plantation, feized the ring-leaders, and returned at their head to the town. Immediately he went out again, with twenty men in arms, that he might restore tranquillity and maintain order. But the negroes were all embodied, and attacked him. Their flandard was the body of a white infant impaled upon a stake. M. Odeluc, addressing himself to his coachman, whom he perceived among the foremost, exclaimed, "Wretch, I have treated thee ever with kindness, why dost thou seek my death?" " True," he replied, 4 but I have premifed to cut your throat:" and, that inflant, a hundred weapons were upon him. The majo-

At the Cape, it was a proverbial mode of expressing any man's happines-" Ma foi, il est heureux comme un negre de Galifet."—" He is as happy as one A young man, tying fice in a neighbodring chim-

rity of the whites perished with him, particularly M. Journale also a member of the General Affembly.

At the very same time Flaville's gang (that which had so recently sworn adelity to the attorney) armed themselves, are volted, entered the apartments of the whites, and mundered five of them who resided on the plantation. The attorney's wife, on her knees, belought the life of her huband. The inexorable negroes all affinated the husband, and told the wife that she and her daughters were reserved for their pleafures.

M. Robert, a carpenter, employed on the fame plantation, was feized by the negroes, who bound him between two planks, and fawed him deliberately in two.

A youth, aged fixteen, wounded in two places, escaped the fury of the cannibals, and it is from him we learned these facts. The sword was then exchanged for the torch; fire was set to the canes, and the buildings soon added to the conflagration; it was the appointed signal; revolt was the word; and, with the speed of lightning, it samed out on the neighbouring plantations; wherever there were whites, there were so many victims slaughtered; men, women, the infant, and the aged, expired indiscriminately under the knife of the assassing.

A colonist was murdered by the very negroe whom he had most distinguished by acts of kindness. His wife, stretched upon his body, was forced to satisfy the brutality of the murderer.

M. Cagnet, inhabitant of Acul, seeking to escape from these horrors, embarked for the Cape. His domestic negro begged permission to attend him. Such a mark of attachment determined his master to leave him as a guard upon the plantation, that he might endeavour to preserve it. But M. Cagnet had hardly set foot on-board, when he saw that save, with a torch in his hand, setting site to his property.

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Expresses being sent to the Cape, armed citizens and troops of the line were dispatched from thence; they proceeded to wards the strongest body of the mutineers, and destroyed a part of them; but, finding the number of revolters increasing in centuple proportion to their losses, and being unable to maintain their ground, they retreated in expectation of a re-inforcement, which arrived, but not before night, headed by M. de Tourard, who took the command of the little army.

. M. de Touzard, perceiving that the revolters were rallying on Latour's plantation, marched thither. Their number might be from three to four thousand. The moment the artillery was ready to play, to disperfe them, the negroes pretended to furrender. M. de Touzard advanced; many of them exclaimed, they would return to their duty. He trufted to their repentance, and retired. Humanity and the intesefts of the colony enjoined his forbearance, but it was not long before he was undeceived; the negroes feparated indeed, but only that they might recruit their numbers with all the neighbouring gangs. The army was returned into the town to take new steps for putting an end to the disorder. The revolters profited by this interval to fill up the measure of their depredations. Our communications with the adjacent districts became impeded. We were alarmed lest the disorder had reached them, and our fears were foon realifed. We learnt, by means of persons escaped by the sea, that Limbe, Plaisance, Port Margot, were a prey to like horrors, and every citizen, in detailing his misfortunes, discovered to us new crimes.

M. Potier, inhabitant of Port Margot, had taught his negro-driver to read and write. He had given him his liberty, which the fellow enjoyed; he had granted him 10,000 livres, which were foon to be paid to him; he had also given to this negro's mother a piece of land, on which the cultivated coffee. The monster seduced the gang of his benefactor and and of his mother, burned and destroyed their possessions, and obtained, for this action, a promotion to the rank of general.

At Great River, an inhabitant, M. Cardineau, had two natural fons, of colour,* to whom he had given their liberty, and who, in their childhood, had been the objects of his tenderest cares. They accosted him with a pistol at his breast, and demanded his money. He delivered it; but no sooner had they obtained it than they stabled him to the heart.

At Acul, M. Chauvet du Breuil, deputy to the General Assembly, was assassinated by a mulatto, aged sixteen, his natural son, to whom he destined his fortune, having manumitted him from his childhood.

At the Great Rayins of Limbs, a colonist, father of two young ladies, whites, was tied down by a savage ring-leader of a band, who ravished the eldest in his presence, and delivered the younger over to one of his satellites; their passion satisfied, they saughtered both the sather and the daughters.

M. and Mad. Baillon, with their fon-in-law and daughter, encouraged by their negroes, remained on their plantation; but the depredations of those, whom they had most trusted, warned them that it was time to sty. The nume of Mad. Baillon, the younger, consessed to her there was not an instant to be lost, and offered to attend them. An old servant engaged to conduct their steps. Luckily Mad. Baillon's nurse was wife of Paul Blin, one of the negro generals, and had obtained from him some provisions for her master's family. At her intreaty, he had even promised to provide, at a distant barquadier, a canoe to carry the sugitives to the Cape. But how great their grief at seeing a little skiff, without mast, or oars, or rowers! One of them tried to embark in it; the stimsey boat over-set, and his life, with difficulty, was saved.

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Again

In the French colonies, the free negroes, as well as the mulattees and others of the mixed race, are denominated people of colour.

Again they applied to Paul, and his wife reproached him with breaking his promite. He replied, that he only pro"vided this as a preferable mode of death to that which the revolters had prepared for the unhappy family:"—petrified, at this recital, with terror, despair gave them new strength; they set off on soot, and after being twenty-one days in performing a journey of only live leagues, every day encompassed with dangers, they arrived at Port Margot, whence they reached the Cape.

Mean time the flames gained ground on all fides. La Petite Angia la Plaine du Nord, the districts of Morin, Limonade, presented only heaps of affres and of mangled carcales.

Nothing, one would think, could deepen the horrors of this recital; and yet, Sirs, it is marked with features of a fill more dreadful character, when we fee that those flaves, who had been most kindly treated by their matters, were the very four of the Infurrection. It was they who betraved and delivered those humane mafters to the affaith s fword; it was they who leduced and flirred up to revolt the gangs dispoled toridelity ; it was they who maffacred all who refused to become their accomplices. What a lefton for the Amis des Min's What a heart-breaking discovery to the colonists themlelves, to whom fundity could faggeff nothing but prospects of despair, if, in the midtl of so many crimes, there had not yet been found flaves who gave proofs of an invincible fidelity, and who made manifest their determination to reject with diffain the feductions of thole who have endeavoured by promites of liberty to envergle them into certain defiruca tion! Liberty is now theirs, but it is the gift of their malters) the reward of their honest attachment, and it has been ratified bytche representatives of the colony, amidst the transports of andey boat over let, and La life, with diffoliattangelifevillu

who have seconded the English project for abelianing the blave-Trade.

We refume the narrative of our disafters. At this time one hundred thousand negroes were in rebellion, and all the buildings and plantations, of more than half the Northern province, appeared only as one general conflagration. The plains and the mountains were filled with carnage and deluged with blood. The colonists, stupified with fear, knew not where to seek refuge; one slies for safety to the woods; is there betrayed by his negroes, and stabbed: another confides in the promises of his gang; a rebel ring-leader steals in among them; the gang rises, and the proprietor is their first victim.

Scattered over an extent of country; interfected by mountains and deep valleys; the flying inhabitants attempted to rally and to fell their lives dearly. The roads were blockaded; they were taken priloners and maffacred.

They, who re-united, opposed but a feeble bulwark against the swelling torrent; they were routed, taken, and explated in tortures their exertions for self-preservation. These horrible scenes were acting at the very gate of the town of the Cape. Terror and dismay took possession of every mind; yet all selt the tirgency of providing for their common safety. They assembled, acted in concert, the citizens took arms, and the General Assembly placed the patriotic troops under the command of the governor.

The town of the Cape, with about three thousand men at the most, had to keep in check fifteen thousand black immates, ready to follow the example of those without, and many ill-disposed whites. The General Assembly deliberated one entire night upon the means of preservation from internal enemies. The result was, to adhere solely to a well-directed and constant watch over their conduct and their dispositions. The revolt had been too sudden, and too well concerted, to leave a hope of stopping or of alleviating its ravages. The town of the Cape (that side next the sea excepted) was defenceless.

defenceless and incapable of fortification, without a delay of several days and immense labour. It was extremely to be feared lest the revolted negroes should pour down upon the town, and, savoured and seconded by those within, make a general massacre of the whole race of the whites. One resource, therefore, only remained; to take possession of the passes of the hills contiguous to the town; to establish a commanding post, which, by the help of the adjoining marshes, might protect it; and to defend the road of so Petits Anse by a battery of cannon and boats lashed together. This resolution was adopted and executed; thence-forwards the Cape, surrounded by a solid palisade, by chevaux-de-frize, and by considerable posts, might feel its situation less alarming.

During this interval, not a minute was lost in sending information, by sea, to the parishes which were yet uncontaminated, and in suggesting to them the proper precautions to be taken. The inhabitants of those parishes formed a league, and established camps, more or less considerable: these were stationed at Trou, Valliere, Great River, Moruet, Dondon, la Marmelade, Port Margot, and other places in danger. The revolters followed the same plan; they stationed camps in all the districts they had ravaged. Moreover, they forced the camp of the whites at Great River, and killed or put to slight all the inhabitants of that district; the camp at Dondon shared the same sate, after a contest of seven hours, in which more than one hundred whites fell. The sew unfortunate people, who escaped on that occasion, sought resuge among the Spaniards, but were driven back.

MM. Gramal, Raynaud, and Lambert, inhabitants of Great River and Dondon, reached, however, the house of a Spanish colonist, their intimate friend, this worthy man, on one side urged by the strongest feelings, on the other by the sear of being burnt out by his countrymen, determined to keep the three Frenchmen locked up in his closet, from

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whence he let them escape at night, in the midst of deferts, and under advantage of a storm.

Shall it be told you, that you may feel the indignation which the conduct of our neighbours must have excited, that depositions and the public report state, that several inhabitants of Dondon, who took refuge among the Spaniards, were driven beyond the limits, and sold to the rebel negro chiefs, in consideration of three Portugal pieces (132 livres of France) per head, and that they were put to death.

The districts of Rocou, Maribarous, le Terrier Rouge, Jacques, Caracole, Ouanaminthe, and fort Dauphin, forming the Eastern part of the Northern province, were still uninjured; their defence was an object of instant necessity.

A camp was established under the orders of M. de Rouvrai, which completely answered the purpose for which it was formed, in spite of the continual efforts of the banditti.

While these alarming transactions were passing the town of the Cape was resorted to by the inhabitants of the neighbouring hills and plains, escaping from the sword of the alfassins. It was then that M. Blanchelande thought it prudent to march out two small bodies of troops, which, joined by M. de Rouvrai, attacked and carried, in succession, several camps of the revolters, situated on the plantations of Chabanon, la Chevallerie, Bullet, Duplat, Charitte, Denort, Dagout, and Galiset; in each of which many semale white prisoners were set at liberty. It is from them, Sirs, that we learnt to what an excess the revolters had carried their brutality.

Your fensibility, already excited, could not endure the narrative of those horrid scenes which these women witnessed.

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^{*} Their diffricts have all been fince ravaged and defiroyed,

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From the rebel prisoners, we discovered that the different. chiefs of these banditti are at bitter enmity with each other; every troop forms a party, and these parties are always at variance, always ready for mutual destruction. The authority they have established is absolute despotism. The chiefs. exercise unheard-of tyranny over those they command: the least disobedience, the slightest sign of hesitation, is punished with death; and it is a notorious truth, that more negroes have been facrificed to their own ignorant rage and suspicion than we have been compelled to destroy in our defence, although we have obtained over them feveral fignal advantages. Their acts of cruelty fall even on those who have voluntarily engaged in the revolt. But who will not shudder to hear in what manner they punish those who determine to remain faithful to their masters !- They seize them by force and roast them at the next fire. They have been feen, with the cruelty of cowards, placing, in the front of battle, the aged, the infants, and the women; and, finding them unfit for action, making use of them to parry our blows. Have they any wounded, and for want of furgeons cannot drefs their wounds? - they confine them in a hut and let fire to it. In short, take this for certain; -if the sanguinary designs of these uncivilized and serocious men should be realized in refeet to the whites; should they accomplish the extermination of the Europeans in the colony; foon would you fee St. Domingo presenting a picture of all the atrocities of Africa. Subjected to the most arbitrary masters, distracted by the most bloody wars, they would render their prisoners subservient to their caprices; and the moderated fervitude, under which they are held by us, would be exchanged for a flavery, aggravated by all the refinements of barbarism.

In the deplorable lituation we have described, M. Blanchelande, who acted in concurrence with the General Assembly, thought it right to fuggest a proclamation which might contribute

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neral Assembly, composed of planters persetly acquainted with the character of the negroes, represented to him the danger of such a proclamation, and positively resuled it their fanction. The week following, M. Blanchelande renewed his proposal. The same motives dictated the same resulal. He persisted, and determined to issue it in his own name, and he did it, because he learned that the negroes were willing to submit themselves. The proclamation was made and delivered by twelve dragoons. What effect was produced by this measure? Seven of them were assassinated in the camp of the rebels, and the others saved themselves with the utmost difficulty.

It would answer no end, Sirs, to describe to you all the horrors to which our unfortunate sellow-citizens have been a prey. Posterity will be shocked at so many cruelties, committed in the names of philosophy and liberty.

Yet have we only, in this relation, sketched to you some scattered outlines of the dreadful picture of those evils, which have visited, probably still visit, a country, but lately so peaceful, so flourishing, so valuable to the French empire! You will better judge by a summary of the losses which the colony had experienced at the period of our departure.

They reckoned, in the parishes of Plaisance, Port Margot, Limbé, Marmelade, Acul, la Plaine du Nord, la Petite Anse, Morin, Limonade, Sainte Susanne, Moka, Cottellettes, Great River, Dondon, and other districts, more than two hundred sugar-works, twelve hundred coffee-works, many indigo-works, entirely burned down; numerous potteries, distilleries, many considerable villages, public magazines, an immense quantity of merchandise, had shared the same fate. By adding to these inappreciable objects, all the instruments of husbandry, utensils for manufactures, household-furniture, and specie; horses, mules, and other cattle; some idea may be formed of the enormity.

with of dir lass, which we value at upwards of six hundred willions of sources. The assistance of the nation, the exertions of commerce, and our industry, may, perhaps, repair them? but what shall dry the tears that flow for more than one thousand of our fellow-citizens slaughtered, the victims of this cruel revolt! Can sensibility be mute, when we restect, that sisteen thousand negroes will be destroyed before order and tranquillity can be re-established, and that, should they succeed in their projects, St. Domingo will become the tomb of sity thousand Frenchmen!*

Northern parts. They are not all we have to lament

The following are extracts from an authentic account of the calamities of this unfortunate co ony, published, in December last, by Mr. Baillio, a French gentleman, a few days after his arrival at Paris from St. Domingo.

Several journals have taken incredible pains to forcen the representation of this mais of horrors. It can affirm that the General Affembly, whose meetings at Latrended till the arit of October, had, at the close of the preceding month, seccived a particular account of the destruction of two hundred and twenty-two fugar-estates and between eleven and twelve hundred coffee-plantations, and it could not then be known how far the mischief had extended itself among the hills, with which the town of the Cape could no longer maintain any come

"The number of white men, women, and children, whose throats had been cent, or who had been otherwise butchered, by the negroes, then amounted more than two thousand, and not to fix hundred only, as the journals of the more than throphists affect.

We would be too irichome a talk to enumerate the acts of crocky committed by the revolters;—choic barbarians, in whole favour a certain fect of philosophers for warmly interest themselves! All the white, and even the mulatto, children have in many places been murde ed without pity, and most frequently before the eyes, or clinging to the bosom, of their mothers. The young women indeed have not been murdered choices they have latitified the brutal bull of these favours, and been abyted in too thaneful a manner for the year to describe. Infants impaled on the ends of pikes have been their ensigns. The Sieur Blin, (an officer of police,) was sailed to one of the gates of a plantation, and his limbs, one by one, cut-off: others have been tied between two planks and fawed assumer." Mot de Virial. Rages 4, 5:

Blood was spilt in the Western province; fire destroyed several properties there; the gangs of Grandfonds, Charboniers, and Fond Ferrier, revolted.

The detection of a configuracy at Leogane preserved that district from carnage and configuration, as well as those of Archaie, Des Vases, and le Cul de Sac. Ferenie experienced some commotions, but a timely arrest of the exciters of them saved that place from the impending evil.

The Southern parts had also great cause of alarm. The precautions taken there had, to the time of our departure, maintained their tranquillity; yet the population there is so thin, that the measures employed are more the proofs of timi-

dity than the pledges of fecurity.

declaration

Thus, Sirs, you behold on every fide the colony threatesed; and, if there he colonists who are yet to be faved from fo many complicated dangers, still will they have to contend with treachery and famine, with epidemical diseases caused by so many unburied carcases in a burning climate, with diforders more acute, the effects of fatigue, terror, and vexation; in a word, with every evil that nature engenders for the destruction of mankind. What just reason have we not to dread the total ruin of the colony, a ruin which must accelerate that of the mother-country! The destruction of our plantations will cause the stagnation of your manufactories, successive bankruptcies will injure public credit, and, even in Paris, will be felt by the moneyed man and the tradefman; in the inmost of your provinces it will check the collection of taxes; the decrease of shipping in the sea-ports will reduce to beggary an innumerable body of labourers and of feamen; then will cries of rage and despair ascend from every quarter, calling upon you for justice against the authors of do many calamities; and can they fail to be detected, by the perfidious cunning, by the cruel perseverance, with which they have so

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long been contriving a catastrophe, now to terribly con-

We passed our lives in tranquillity, Sirs, in the midst of A paternal government had, for many years past, meliorated the condition of our negroes; and we dare affirm, that millions of Europeans, attacked by every want, subject to every milery, possels fewer enjoyments than those who have been represented to you, and to the world in general, as loaded with chains and perishing by a dilatory death. fituation of the negroes, in Africa, without property, without political or civil existence, continually a prey to the weak capricious fury of tyrants, who divide among them that valt uncivilized country, is changed in our colonies for a condition of comfort and enjoyment. They are deprived of nothing; for, liberty, which, it is true, they have not, is a plant that has never yet proved fertile in their native foil; and, whatever the spirit of party may affert, whatever imagination may invent, well-informed men are not to be perfuaded that the negroes in Africa have the enjoyment of freedom. The traveller,* who has most recently visited a part, hitherto almost unknown. of that extensive country, has given us, in his long and interefting work, a history only of blood and desolation. The men who inhabit Abyssinia, Nubia, the Galla, and the Funge, from the coasts of the Indian ocean to the very frontiers of Egypt, feem to rival, in ferocity and barbarity, the hyænas and the tigers which nature has there created. Slavery is, with them, a title of honour; and life, in those horrible climates, is a possession unprotected by any laws, and held only at the will of a fanguinary despot.

Let any man, of feeling and information, compare the deplorable state of the negroes, in Africa, with the mild and comfortable lot they enjoy in our colonies; let him set aside declamation, the pictures which a false philosophy has been pleased to delineate; (far more from a pursuit of popularity than from zeal in the vindication of humanity;) let him recal the regulations which governed our negroes before they were feduced and alienated from us; provided against every want; fupplied with accommodations, unknown in the greater part of the cottages of Europe; secure in the enjoyment of their properties; (for, they had property and it was facred ;) nurfed, in times of fickness, with an expence and an attention which may be fought in vain in the much-boafted hospitals of England: protected, respected, in the infirmities of old age; at ease in respect to their children, their families, and their affections; subjected to a labour calculated according to the firength of each individual, because individuals and employments were classed; and interest (even should humanity fail) enjoined an attention to the preservation of their numbers; enfranchifed whenever they had merited it by important services .- Such was the just, unflattered, picture of the government of our negroes; and this domestic government had been meliorated (particularly in the last ten years) with an anxiety, of which you will find no example in Europe. The fincerest attachment connected the master and his slaves. We flept in fecurity in the midst of men that were become our children, and many of us had neither locks nor bars to our houses. A parent and land many many to the red parent

Not, Sirs, that we would disguise to you, that there did exist, among the planters, a very small number of hard and ferocious masters. But what was the lot of these wicked men? Blasted in their same, detelted by men of character, outcasts of society, discredited in their business, they lived in disgrace and dishonour, and died in misery and despair. Their names are never pronounced without indignation in the colony, and the bad estimation in which they are held serves as a warning to those, who, yet unversed in the management of their

their flaves, might be led, by the impetuolity of their tempers, into excesses, proved, by experience, to be as contrary to good policy, as they are, by increase of knowledge and humanity, become infamous.

Here we appeal, not to those who write romances to gain a name as men of sensibility, to acquire a momentary popularity, soon to be wrested from them by general indignation, but to those who have visited, who know, the colonies. Let them say if the recital we have made is faithful, or if we have coloured it to interest you in our cause.

We repeat it, Sirs, we passed our lives in this state of tranquillity and happiness, and we returned to the mother-country, the protectress of our properties, the entire tribute of our produce, which was applied in adding to the wealth of the metropolis, to her internal strength, and to her superiority in foreign commerce.

Meantime, Sirs, a fociety springs up in the bosom of France, and prepares, at a distance, the destruction and convulsions to which we are now a prey. Unobtrusive and modest in their outset, they professed only a desire to alleviate the lot of our slaves; but that alleviation, already so far advanced in the French islands, must result from means which were totally unknown to this society, although they were objects of our unceasing attention, until obliged to abandon them, by these incompetent meddlers having excited, among our slaves, a spirit of mutiny, and, among us, a spirit of distrust,

In order to meliorate gradually the lot of the flaves, and to increase the number of the emancipated, there should ceratainly be a previous solicitude of attention to the perfect safety of their masters. But, an expedient so wise would have gain-

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^{* 44} A fociety which foreigners and bad men have instituted for our destruction

ed no applause in their temple of renown. Wanity commanded that measures of prudence should be relinquished for specious declamations, that we floudd be furrounded with terror and alarm, and that calamities should be contrived, the fame which we have predicted fince the earliest proceedings of the Amis des Noirs, and which have fo lately been realifed.

On a fudden this fociety demands an Abolition of the Slave-Trade: that is to fav, that the profits, which may refult from icto the French commerce, should be transferred to foreigners; for, never will their romantic philosophy persuade all the European cowers, that it is incumbent upon them to abandon the culture of their colonies, and to leave the natives of Africa a prey to the barbarity of their native tyrants, rather than employ them elsewhere; and under more humane masters, in cultivating a foil, which, without them, must remain uncultivated, and whose valuable productions are, to the nation which possesses them, a fertile source of industry and prosperity of a common est a second the one common

Combining itself next with the Revolution in France, this fociety confounds its extravagant and irrational fustem with the plan which the nation had conceived for its enfranchifement; and, profiting by the universal ardour of all Frenchmen in the cause of liberty, interests them, from the remembrance of their fervitude, in its defign to put an end to that of the negroes. Its blind enthusiasm, or its perversity, forgets, that those savage men are incapable of knowing in what true focial liberty confifts, or of enjoying it with moderation; and that the rash law, which should destroy their prejudices,

Thenceforwards, this fociety, or at least some of its members, have given an unbounded loofe to their enterprise; all means have seemed to them good, so they might but tend to its accomplishment. The open attack, the deep and studied inuendo, the basest and most despicable calumnies, have been practifed

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practifed to forward their deligns; ingeniously mixing cuffning with audacity, the fociety, at one time, flatters us by an invitation to shake off the yoke of the French merchants, affuring us of its support if we will unite with it for obtaining a free commerce; at another time, it arms the mercantile body against us, affirming that we have in view a disgraceful bankruptey, a chimerical independence, and that, in our caseer of vanity, we would build up a separate power on a level with that of France. Thus, after having endeavoured to irritate the planters and the merchants against each other, after having offered us principles incompatible with the interests of the mother-country, when, in fpite of its infidious counsels, we have declined to adopt them, still are we accused, by the fociety, of such intentions, and they lay hold of the declaration of the Rights of Man, an immortal work, and beneficial to highly enlightened men; but inaplicable, and therefore dangerouse to our colonial regulations; they fend it with profusion into our colonies; the journals in their pay, or under their influence, publish this declaration in the midst of our gange; the writings of the Amis des Noirs openly announce, that the freedom of the negroes is proclaimed by the declaration of rights, lin to mosts faltering our prisoning tran , more

The decree of the 8th of March* feemed calculated to check these desperate plots. But can the Amis des Noirs reverence any law but those oaths by which they are bound together, and that vow which they have formed to carry fire and fword into our habitations? If a law be favourable to their theories, they adopt, they promulgate, they interpret, that law. If repugnant, they misconstrue, disavow, insult, it, without shame; they endeavour to degrade the authority on which it is founded as the base and the second and the

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^{*} A decree, which left internal regulations, for the most part, under control of the colonial legislatures. The

The planters, marchants, and men enlightened enough not to be the dupes of their falfities, are indiferiminately the objects of their abuse. It is not enough that they have made themselves the arbiters of our property and our peace, they assume over us a supremacy of defamation; nor may we defend ourselves, and strive to parry their blows, without undergoing a torrent of their low scurrility. Thus, prejudicing against us the public opinion, shutting up from us the channels of defence, they undermine in security the rock on which our possessions are placed; they surround it with snares, and our ruin must follow!

When it was found that they had vainly flattered themselves with obtaining from the National Assembly the emancipation of our slaves, they attempted to introduce differtion among us, by persuading that Assembly to take on itself to discuss the question of the People of Colour. We had demanded that we should ourselves make the laws upon this subject, which require great delicacy and prudence in their application. We had pledged ourselves that those laws should be just and humane.

But, that boon, which, then granted by the white planters, would have eternally comented the ties of affection and be nevolence existing between those low classes of men, is prefented to them, by the Amis des Noirs, as an offering of vanity, and a means of avoiding equitable stipulations.

Other measures were tried to gain their point: they collected together at Paris some people of colour; they extolled their understandings; they invited them to unite their cause with that of the negroes. These men passed over to St. Domingo, in the sort of delirium occasioned by such docume; they communicated to the slaves those hopes with which they had been amused; they were loaded with libels and pamphlets, which encouraged the men of colour and the slaves to a general insurrection, and to a general massacre of the whites.

Ogé was the first victim of this fatal error; one of his brothers, misled by him, declared, the 9th of March, in his death-

death-bed testimony, that, had not the swelling of the rivers prevented the junction of the conspirators, eleven thoufand rebel negroes were ready to pour down upon the Cape
so early as the month of February, and to cause the devastration which took place only the 23d of August. He named
the ring-leaders, gave particulars of the conspiracy, and offered proof. It was the voice of his conscience which spoke
out at that moment, the last that remained to him for discovering the truth.

In the midst of this fermentation, in this general delirium, while the whites were agitated by distrust and terror, and while the negroes were indulging themselves in a thousand satal dreams, was the discussion of the Decree of the 15th of May agitated among you. A shoal of writings, previous and subsequent, have been disseminated among our gangs. There have been read, and commented upon, those terrible words! those words, the signal of blood and constagration!

Colonies.

It was then that a Minister of the Gospel of Peace, in a letter, addressed to his brethren, the Men of Colour, announced to our slaves, that foon should the fun shine on none but freemen!

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This decree was formed on principles directly opposite to those of the decree of the 5th of March.

[†] The words used by Mr. Robertspierre, in the National Assembly, when attempting to prove that the declaration of rights implied an enfranchisement of all the negroes in the Colonies. "Let the colonies perish," said he, "rather than "one of our principles!" His speech was printed; and, with many other writings of similar tendency, was differentiated in St. Domingo. Vide appendix (E.)

[†] This is the expression of the Abbé Grégoire, the most zealous and active of the society of the Amis des Noirs.—Mr. Baillio, in the pamphlet before quoted, says:

"He is looked upon at the Cape in the light he deserves, and it is upon him the resentment of the planters particularly falls."—" In one of his writings he seems

Could the negroes, — affailed by so many temptations, — worked upon by so many manœuvres, — stimulated by libels, written in characters of blood, read at evenings in their huts, in the midst of assemblies of their chiefs, by men breathing only disorder and pillage: — Could they long resist the vertigo with which they were stricken? — All memory of the kind-

7 at 29 22 th Anny selected occurrence to sended in mo 21 selected the ruin of the colonies, of the maritime towns, and manufac-

" taries, in consequence of an emancipation of the negroes. Unworthy mortals,

" exclaims this holy man," ' Eat grass, and be just.' " Hear this, ye industri-

" ous planters, ye numerous feamen, inhabitants of the fea-ports, cultivators,

" manufacturers, all ye four millions of Frenchmen who directly and indirectly

" live and prosper by the rich productions of the colonies !" . " Ear grass !" . "So

prays the pious Abbé Grégoire. - Foulon, the deteftable Foulon, wished also that the people of Paris might live upon bay, and therefore was his hideous head

borne upon a pike. The justice of the colonists has hitherto only emblematically

overtaken the abbé. He was hanged in effigy before the post-office at Cape

" Prançois, in July last." Baillio, Mot de Vérité, pages S, o.

"Many of the mulattoes had established a correspondence with considerable persons in France; from some of whom, particularly the Abbé Grégoire, letters of a very extraordinary tendency were received and distributed through the colony. In one of these letters, after promising protection and support, the abbé declares, that the day will from come when the sun shall shine upon free people only."—" The beams of the morning," says he, "shall no longer give light to the setters of such shall shall no longer give light to the setters of she shall be supported into one point: that the King had given freedom to all the slaves in St. Domingo; and the Abbs Grégoire, to whose good offices this benevolence was imputed, was immediately considered as the patron of all the mulattoes and negroes in the island: It is no wonder, therefore, that, considering their masters unjustly to withhold from them those privileges which they believed were granted them in France, they determined to do justice to themselves by murdering their oppressors. The above conjecture is consistent by the following circumstance:"

"In the first of the engagements, one of the chiefs of the rebels being killed, there was found about his neck a medal of San Gregorio, a Saint in the Romish calendar; and it appeared in evidence that this medal was worn by the negro as the portrait of his patron, the abbé: the similarity of the name giving countenance to the conceit. An impression of this medal is now in the possession of B. E. Esq. It has this description: SAN GREGORIO MAGNO, 7. M."

Particulars of the insurrection in St. Domingo, printed in the Jamaica neque-

ness of their masters was erased from their minds; a desire of novelty was all they selt; they became the apt instruments of those men, inveterately malevolent, who have greedily seized, in the writings of the Amis des Noirs and in the interpretation of decrees, such arms as were best suited to lead the way to insurrection.

Is our measure of misfortune sufficiently sull, that we may hope at last to have the truth no more disguised? Have we a valid claim to the retribution of the laws, without waiting those proofs, which must result from the proceedings now on foot at St. Domingo, and which will be transmitted to us? The satal influence of the authors of so many calamities,—is it not already evidently proved by the whole of their transactions and by their criminal writings? Can it be doubted, at this time, that our ruin is their work? And shall France still restrain the cry of indignation, due to the guilt of our enemies?

Flattered with hopes that misfortunes like ours would find consolation in the bosom of the mother-country, - that, on our arrival in the capital, where we have at least a claim to pity, the hearts of our fellow-citizens would be open to our complaints, - we find ourselves preceded by calumny! They, who have made light of our properties and our blood, reckoned upon being objects of our bitter reproaches, and have endeavoured to anticipate them. Skilled in the arts of defamation, which are habitual to them, after having rendered us the victims of their machinations, it remained to cast upon us the reproach and the shame. With a cruelty, equalled only by their difregard for probability, they have dared to fabricate and to report, that our constituents were themselves the contrivers of their own afflictions! they have dared to affirm, that the absurd and barbarous project of effecting a Counter-Revolution was the object, to which they have facrificed their properties.

perties, their families, their lives! They have dared to fay that we wished to offer ourselves to Great-Britain!

In return, we will ask of you, Sirs, with the boldness of Freemen and of French Citizens, (for, after all, we too are Frenchmen and Citizens,) we will ask of you, whether it be permitted to any set of men; of any nation upon earth, to infult, with such effrontery, those whom they have injured in

What! We place fire and sword in the hands of our negroes! We light the torch that has destroyed our plantations! We sharpen the daggers that have assassinated our brethren and our friends! We prompt the brutal passions of which our semales have been the hapless victims! We kindle in our country the volcano which has already covered it with ashes, and which perhaps will reduce it to nothing!

These desolators, calling themselves patriots, accuse us of having plotted a counter-revolution. They are then uninformed, that, from the earliest days of the Revolution, it has had our veneration; and that, as being more exposed under a despotic government to oppression, we have, with greater ardour, sprung towards liberty. Our most recent transactions testify in our favour. Is it the act of a counter-revolutionist to have declared, in constituting our assembly, that "We'l would protest, with all the power of the law and of public opinion, the recovery of the debts due to the mother-country? Is it the act of a counter-revolutionist to have there recorded, that to the National Assembly belongs the right of instituting our political and commercial regulations?

Is it the act of a counter-revolutionist to have written to the representatives of the nation, while the grave was opening beneath our feet, that our last sigh and our last vow should be for our country?*

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convents

We will not inform you what cause has produced our calamities : You ought sufficiently to be acquainted with it. - That which you will learn from us is, that,

Had we been counter-revolutionists, is it to the National Assembly we should have addressed such sentiments?

It is afferted, it is printed and published, that we wished to offer ourselves to Great Birtain.—Our reply to this falsehood is very simple, it is written in every page of our verbal process. There we have manifested our principles, and, we can fafely affirm, the full performance of our duty.

But we will go yet farther: permit us an hypothesis, which our situation, singular in the records of history, authorises us to state.

At the moment of the infurrection breaking out, all the inhabitants of the town of the Cape were anxious to discover the cause of an event so horrible.

A journalist had printed the decrees of the 13th and 15th of May last, with the speech of M. Monneron, deputy of the Isle of France. The first depositions stated, that these papers, with all those of the pretended philanthropists, were read and commented upon, by a mulatto upon Normand's plantation, in the nocturnal affemblies where the negro-drivers met, who are now the ring-leaders of the rebels. learnt that the town of the Cape was to be included in the conflagration, and that within that town were lurking those who were to fet it on fire and massacre all its inhabitants. Immediately a cry of rage and despair arose on all sides. The philanthropifts, France itself, were accused of this dreadful plot: diffraction and fury were impressed on every counter nance; every heart was in agitation; every thing menaced & horrible butchery, a general confusion. Already the report of musquets was heard! Negroes and mulattoes received their

If we must perish, our last eyes shall be turned towards France—our last wishes shall be for her."

First address, to the National Assembly, by the members of the General Assembly of the French part of St. Domingo.

P. DE CADUSCH, prefident.

contents at the very door of the General Assembly. Some assumed a white cockade, some loudly called for the protection of the English, some assumed a black cockade. Those words, The Nation, the Law, and the King, disappeared from the hall which was preparing for the General Assembly; a hand, bewildered by rage, obliterated them, Exclamations were heard, that the government at home had yielded us to the murderer's sword, to the torch of incendiaries! that, in short, they had delivered us over to every human crime in one day, believed to be the last of the colony! Furious voices blashemed against a country, to whom they were indebted — not for their protection — but their death!

In the midst of this frenzy, of which no power could repress the sirst effusion, the General Assembly was yet attentive to measures of security. The moments were precious. A proclamation was issued, forbidding, under pain of death, any one to take away another's life. Four of the members made it public even whilst it was writing. These commissioners carried it from place to place; and met, in every place, mobs, and shouts, and even insults; but they succeeded in saving the mulattoes, who, being accused, would otherwise have been massacred; and their care and their intreaties suspended the sury of the people.

A new alarm was suggested. The General Assembly was accused of participating in the crime of the people of colour, and was threatened. Its courage remained unabated. The mulattoes offered to arm themselves for the common defence, and to leave as hostages their wives and children. The Assembly ventured to arm them, and, uniting them with the soldiers of the regiment of the Cape, thus converted into defenders those who had been nearly sacrificed as enemies.

At this violent crisis, which betokened a subversion of all things; if, giving way to impressions so calculated to inspire terror, we had experienced its effects; if, like those who sur-

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rounded and threatened us at that moment, we had regarded our country in no other light than as the cause of our missortunes; if we had called in a foreign power to fnatch the colonists from their butchers, to fave their properties, to preserve the very credit of the metropolis: - Where is that man, having a conscience, who would have dared to condemn us? -- Yet were we still Frenchmen! - And shall we, after this, be reduced to the abject necessity of justifying ourselves from the reproach of having aimed at independence? Let them examine all our acts: if there be a fingle one that tends to loosen us from those indissoluble ties which attach us to the empire; our heads are here to fuffer the punishment due to fuch perfidy. We know that some captains of ships, whose vanity has been wounded because their inhumanity was made public, have been ready to join the Amis des Noir. in finding us guilty; but the groans of dejected commerce, feeling for our calamities and for their confequences, shall teach them their error; and that, should they succeed in rendering us odious by their calumnies, they will themselves have, ere long, to lament their fuccess.

True, we have asked, we glory in having asked, (for, it was the duty of men invested with a trust by their fellow-citizens,) assistance from all who surrounded us! That assistance we implored in concert with the Governor-General, and therefore, as Frenchmen and as men, and since, without distinction, we applied at the same time to three different nations, we have sufficiently proved that our solicitations, the dictates of misfortune, could cover no project inimical to the mother-country. Who, indeed, will dare accuse us for having had recourse to the English of Jamaica, since the National Assembly (then informed of our calamities and of our dangers only by impersect reports) thought sit, of itself, to express the national gratitude to that generous people!*

But even, Sirs, had we called in the English, not to lend us affiftance but to govern us, to whom ought the guilt to be imputed? Place, for a moment, in our fituation, that department of the kingdom which you believe to be the most patriotic, the most proud of the appellation of Frenchmen:suppose that the sowers of sedition had stirred up, in its boson fervants against masters - banditti against possessors of property; - that a hundred times the peaceable inhabitants had remonstrated against such practices with no return but contempt; - that, fo far from receiving fuccour from the mother-country, all that issued from its bosom seemed to teem with the feeds of revolt; - that already the houses and properties of a multitude of citizens had fallen a prey to the difturbances; - that they had seen the most abominable murders committed under their eyes; - that they were hopeless of protection; - if, at fuch a time, so destitute and abandoned, these hapless citizens should have indulged an idea of forming new connections and of imploring the affiftance of another country: - To whom think you, Sirs, ought the reproach to be made? To wretches, bewildered by despair? or to the miscreants, who took pleasure in wearing out their patience, and in breaking afunder the dearest and most facred ties by an excess of misery?

We know our duty, Sirs, and we love it; but we know too and boldly claim our rights. We dedicate, to the prosperity of the mother-country, the entire produce of our labours. She owes us protection against foreign force; she owes us the security of our properties and peace against the plots of the turbulent.

It is now proved that the influence of the Amis des Noirs is fatal to the colonies.* Let them weave what sophisms they please,

The fociety of the Amis des Noirs has been very anxious to parry the accufation of having fomented the troubles in St. Domingo: to fay nothing of their abfurd crimination of the colonists, as disaffected to the new constitution, and as having

please, they cannot hide the evidence of our calamities. There is not an unprejudiced man existing who can doubt, that their labours, their declamations, their writings, their infamous emissaries, have been the active, persevering, cause, which, for two years past, has paved the way for our ruin, and which at length has succeeded.

France owes us protection; but her strength will be infussicient to give us confidence, while she suffers the contrivers of our revolts and massacres to lurk in her bosom,

She owes us protection; but in vain would the render it effective, if such attempts are to remain unpunished; that, which ought to differe our enemies, affords them matter of triumph and exultation.

She owes us protection; but to what end her fleets and her armies, if the permit that feditious writings thould inceffantly featter in our houses the feeds of every trouble! if the permit us to be preffed down to the earth with humiliations! and if to encompass us with murder and with blood become, in the

having plotted a counter-revolution at the expense of every thing, which, under any form of government, could be worthy their preservation, it has been industria oully spread abroad, that the injustice of the whites to the men of colour has been the fole cause of this insurrection. Doubtless the ill blood occasioned by various contradictory decrees, some exciting, some repressing, the expectations of the men of colour, has had its share in bringing this calamitous business to a crisis. But to whom is it owing that the National Assembly sook at any time from the Colonial Assemblies the right of framing their own internal regulations? To the speeches and representations of the most violent of the Amis des Noirs. By whom have the pretentions of the men of colour been suddenly elevated to an extravagant height, subversive of all ancient usages, prejudices, and of the harmony of the colony? By the Amis des Noirs, and principally by the Abbé Grégoire in his famous circular letters. And, in a word, to what could those levelling doctrines tend, which the writings of the Amis des Noirs have industriously disseminated in the colonies, but first to set the whites and the men of colour by the ears, and then to make these last the instruments of an insurrection of the slaves? See appendix (A.) (B.) (D.) and (E.)

eyes of the country to whom we facrifice ourfelves, the road to glory and to fame!

Forgive, Sirs, the warmth of our language. So many callamities have given us a privilege to speak out. Grief, bitter grief, is at our hearts! A hundred times have we foretold the evils of which we are the victims — a hundred times have we imprecated the public vengeance on the hateful mancuvres of those men, who convulse our country under the mask of humanity: — We have obtained no redress! Oh may the dreadful catastrophe, of which we have sketched to you the picture, serve as a lesson for futurity, and preserve, from like calamities, all those of our fellow-citizens to whose lot they have not yet fallen!

It is to your steadiness, in punishing the authors of our difasters, and in checking their new efforts, that the Western and Southern provinces have to look for their security.

As for the Northern province, its loss are irreparable. Immense capitals are sunk; the restoration of its industry requires such an advance of funds as the merchants and proprietors cannot wholly accomplish. We speak not to you of individuals, but you will examine, Sirs, what, on your part, is required by the interest of the colony and that of the nation.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, you have heard a recital of the greatest calamity that has visited the human race in the course of the eighteenth century.

You have heard the complaint of the first colony in the world; of a colony necessary to the existence of that nation whose concerns are placed in your hands.* That colony wishes to interest you only by its feelings and its sufferings!

soldbers ...

It demands, from you, Justice, SAFETY, Succour!

Signed, J. B. MILLET.
COUGNACQ MION.
SAINTE-JAMES.
CHENEAU DE LA MEGRIERE.
LA-GOURGUE:
LE BUCQUET.

REPLY of the PRESIDENT.

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TO love our country is a fource of heart-felt satisfaction! To serve it in time of distress is the first of civic virtues, and it is yours! The calamities of the colony are dreadful! The National Assembly views them with horror, with indignation, with grief! You ask its JUSTICE; that is due from it to all the citizens of the empire. Its PROTECTION; that is due to your courage; your patriotism, your missfortunes! Its Succour; that it is already occupied in providing: It will give your application its most serious attention, and invites you to the honours of the session.

REPLY OF THE DEPUTIES OF ST. DOMINGO TO THE CHARGES OF M. BRISSOT.

Addressed, on the 5th of December, to the President of the National Assembly.**

MR. PRESIDENT,

AT the bar of the National Assembly we have pointed out the society of the Amis des Noirs as the instigators of the

troubles

^{*} This letter was, on the morning of the 5th of December, delivered by two of the deputies to the prefident; the secretary, who had his orders to lay it before the assembly, thought proper to deser its reading to the next day.





troubles in St. Domingo. No candid and well-informed man can doubt the fact. Yet M. Briffet, one of the members of that fociety which has been incessantly busied in the ruin of the colonies, dares accuse us of having ourselves excited the infurrection of our flaves; that we might call in a foreign power to our aid and protection; and, as if the treafor existed and was proved, he two days ago moved that the General Affembly of St. Domingo should be summoned before the Supreme National Court. Incumbered by the weight of those evils which he has brought upon his country, he feeks to divert the public attention from himself; he would interest the representatives of the Nation in his personal defence; he hopes to mislead the justice of the National Assembly, that he may shelter himself from its decrees. We challenge him. Mr. President, to exhibit his proofs. We intreat the National Affembly to require them. And, as for us, intrufted by a great colony with the duty of projecuting its vengeance, we will bring forward, upon the question, such an accumulation of evidence as shall leave neither to the public opinion nor to the sentence of the law any room to besitate in distinguishing the guilty.

We are, respectfully,

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full of guilt against solutions.

Signed, J. B. MILLET,

COUGNACO MION.

SAINTE-JAMES.

CHENAU DE LA MEGRIERE.

LA-GOURGUE.

LE BUCQUET.

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troubles in St. Domingo. No exalted and well-informed one can doubt the field. Yet M. theyet, one of the members of that for the best been incessible build in the

rule of the colonies, dates accide as of having outlelves excited the Kurr-Ino Or over 19 of white A collin a foreign hower to but aid and protection; and, as if the tree-

for existed and was proved, he two days ago moved that the Cantral Assembly of St. DomAs should be sinumoned before

Extracts from the Address of the St. Domingo Planters, affentebled at Paris, to the King, Dec. 11, 1791.

ON the first report of our calamities, France has seen these men, whose philosophy is a dagger and whose virtue is a staming torch, setting their writers and their clubs to work to counteract that impression of pity which our fituation was calculated to inspire; and, at the very moment of the accomplishment of their prophetic vow, "Perish the Colonies rather than our Principles!" M. Conderces published, in his Journal, "that the accounts were fabricated, and had no other ob"jest than to create, to the king of the French, an empire be"yond the seas, in which there should be masters and in which "there should be slaves."

When the news was confirmed, when the manufacturers, the feamen, hip-owners, and the whole commercial body of the kingdom, discovered their alarm, the anti-social sect (through its organ, Mr. Brissot) exclaimed, that the blood of our brethren, and the ashes of our habitations, covered a crime of high treason; and this friend of humanity proposed to summon, before the High National Court, whatever remnant of the planters should be left unmurdered by the negroes.

These horrid proposals were agitated, discussed, in the National Assembly. Perhaps it was the first time that a civilized people have suffered, in a legal form, the impious assault of guilt against missortune.

The contempt, consequent on such charges, obliged them to shift their ground.—The colonial regulations are inimical to their levelling system. — Sworn enemies are they to all great property: for, they spurn, they perfecute, they would annihilate, all wealth and all authority in which they cannot participate. Their hypocrify would preserve sacred the rights only of that multitude of which they are the despots. Therefore the people of colour, in the colonies, were, for them, sit instruments, into whose hands they must put arms, and they have succeeded!

Such, Sire, is the origin of our calamities. It is rendered obvious by successive facts, from the first insurrection of the mulatto Ogé, to the devastation of the plain of the Cape plotted by the accomplices of Ogé.

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's would come in firston to give as confebrion. - You have

Extract from an Address of the same Planters to the National

IT is abfurd to believe, that those, who have tried every means to abolish slavery and the slave-trade, have a single measure to propose, friendly in its nature, to those very colonies which cannot subsist without slavery and the slave-trade.

It is abfurd to believe, that those, who declare themselves enemies of the white planters because they have negro-slaves, should have taken up the cause of the people of colour, who also have negro-slaves, for any other purpose than that of setting the whites and the people of colour together by the ears, of making them cut one another's throats, in order to secure the freedom of the negroes, who would remain sole masters of the territory. — These are the beneficent projects of these friends of humanity!

to that dwir ground. - The (19) and regulations are immired

The contempt configuent on fuch charges, obliged there

Sworn enemies and they to all

Extract from the Journal of the Colonial Assembly of the French,
Rart of Hispaniela, Sept. 26, 1791.

THE committee, appointed to repair on-board the English frigate, reported, "That Commodore Affleck, and Bryan Edwards, Esq. member of the Jamaica Assembly, attended to be presented;" who were accordingly admitted, in company with the Governor-General; whereupon the President adressed them as follows:

"We were not mistaken, Gentlemen, when we placed our considence in your generosity; but we could hardly entertain the hopes, that, besides sending us succours, you would come in person to give us consolation. — You have quitted, without reluctance, the peaceful enjoyment of happiness at home, to come and participate in our missortunes and blend your tears with ours. Scenes of misery (the contemplation of which, to those who are unaccustomed to missortune, is commonly disgusting) have not suppressed your feelings. You have been willing to ascertain the full extent of our distresses, and to pour into our wounds the salutary balm of your sensibility and compassion.

"The picture which I have drawn of our calamities is still

" far thort of the truth.

"That verdure, with which our fields were lately arrayed,
is no longer visible; discoloured by the flames, and laid
waste by the devastations of war, our coasts exhibit no
prospect but that of horror. The emblems which we wear
on our persons are the tokens of our grief for the loss of
our brethren, who were surprised, and basely assassinated, by
the revolters.

The Assembly appeared in white dresses, with black filk sashes. There were upwards of two hundred members present.

It is by the light of these conflagrations, that every way furround us, that we now deliberate; we are compelled to " fit armed and watchful, through the night, to keep the " enemy from our fanctuary. For a long time past our bo-" foms have been depressed by forrow; they experience this 4 day, for the first time, the sweet emotions of pleasure, in Hebolding you among us of to dollion a value of the Generous islanders! humanity has operated powerfully on your hearts; you have yielded to the first emotion of " your generofity, in the hopes of fnatching us from death; & for, it is already too late to fave us from mifery. What a " contrast between your conduct and that of other hations! We will avail ourselves of your benevolence: but the days " you preserve to us will not be sufficient to manifest our gratitude: - Our children shall keepit in remembrance della Regenerated France, unapprifed that fuch calamities ff might befal us, has taken no measures to protect us against " their effects: with what admiration will the learn, that, " without your affiftance, we should no longer exist as a de-"pendency to any nation. W. Ashfurth new sham and delivery " The Commissioner, deputed by us to the island of Ia-" maica, has informed us of your exertions to serve us. Receive the affurance of our attachment and fensibility. The Governor-general of this island, whose fentiments " perfectly accord with our own, and who is strongly at-" tached to the interests of this country, participates equally in the joy we feel at your presence and in our gratitude for

" the affiftance you have brought us, so me chan bee ; sainot

"It is neededs, Sire, to fix; our attention upon one nature of the Prench continue, but, performs, it may be necessary

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" It is by the light of the conflagrations, that we're way

Lutrate from the Address of the Merchants and Traders of Amiens to the National Assembly, Dac. 10, 1791.

THE freedom of the negroes in the West-Indies, so eagerhy desired by the society of the Amis des Noirs, has submitted,
to public enquiry, a question of too much importance, at this
time, to be regarded with indifference. This question, so
elosely connected with the commercial interests of Europe,
has divided opinions and formed parties. In the eye of reafon, both experience and policy unite in dictating, that we
should abide by the customary regulations, meliorating, if it
be yet possible, the lot of the negroes.

The pretended philanthropids, not having succeeded in establishing anarchy by means of an unqualified enfranchisement of the negroes, have directed their attention to the men of colour, whom time would naturally have conducted to all the rights of other civizens.

We draw the yeil over scenes of horror, the bare recital of which has made you shudder. We leave to journalists, for the most part coldly selfish or irrationally enthusiastic, to reafon over them in their manner. Let them rell us that France, to be prosperous, needs no colonies; that the loss of sugar and coffee is an evil only to wealthy persons who consume them. These are not arguments that will persuade the patricular citizen, still less the enlightened merchant. Let sacts convince us, that France owes her splendour only to her colonies; and that, in the present state of the European nations. France, without her colonies, cannot be supported.

It is needless, Sirs, to fix your attention upon the nature of the French commerce, but, perhaps, it may be necessary to examine what is the basis of its commercial industry; an object so important, that it is the principle of our immense population.

The

The greater part of our manufactories are nourilhed by raw materials imported, and which we must purchase from foreigners; and what have we, of the produce of our soil or of the fruits of our industry, to give them in return? Before the establishment of our manufactories, which have so prodigiously augmented the number of consumers, it was politic to export corn, but we now find, by experience, great objections to an export of that article. There remain, then, our wines, brandies, some fruits, a little dried sish, some cattle, and salt; we have also to offer them linens, silks, woollens, cottons, and millenery and haberdashery wares.

Although these different manufactories occasion a considerable export to foreign nations, their amount does not form a compensation for the raw materials, drugs, and dye stuffs, which we are compelled to take from them. Other riches become necessary in order to pay for the surplus and to give a balance advantageous to France. Those riches our colonies supply.

France received annually from her American colonies about 300,000,000 value in their produce, of which about one half was exported. It is by this value that we pay for those materials, which are the support of our manufactures, and for other articles, whether of luxury or of necessity; and, by this value, there accrued to France a balance of trade amounting to between 40 and 50,000,000 of livres.

What becomes of this balance, what becomes of the king dom, if we lose these invaluable possessions? Should that loss happen from our fault, we have to answer to our brethren, resident in the colonies, who look to the mother country for protection; we have to answer to the numerous seamen and artificers of all kinds who reside in our sea-ports; we have to answer to all those manufactories of the internal provinces, whose hands are employed by the colonies, or by those connected with them. — How dreadful the prospect!

20,000

Similar addresses were presented from Bourdeaux; Nantes; Havre, &c. raw materials imported and which we mith percent from foreigners; and what have be the produce of our follow

Extract of the Speech of M. ROUSTAN, in the National Affembly, Dec. 10, 1791. (He was deputed, by the Colony of St. Domingo, to ask Succours of the American States.)

BUT, Sirs, by what fatality are all our measures to be confidered as suspicious? By what fatality are we reduced to our justification? We, that are the victims, whilst the charges of our enemies, I might say of our executioners, are looked upon as indifputable truths! By what right does M. Briffot, * and those other members of the National Assembly, who are ignorant of the internal regulation which is suitable to our own, colonies, because that regulation depends on localities that can be known only to the inhabitants, permit themselves to load us with abuse? Whence comes it that, when we require them to bring proof of what they affert, the National Affembly, which has promifed us justice, should not compel them to their own vindication; whilst we, on our parts, offer proof of all we have affirmed?

To what an excess of despair shall we not reduce our hapless constituents, when we relate to them, as we must, all that has passed during the discussion of their dreadful situation! What confidence will they derive from a Journalist, member of the National Assembly, who publishes, (I quote his own expression,) that those celebrated words, " Perish the Colonies " rather than we should sacrifice a Principle - have been pro-" nounced in vain from the tribunal of the Constituent Affen-" bly." Pronounced in vain! then it is the wish, the prayer, of M. Condorcet, that these words had not been a fruitless ineffectual declamation. Pronounced in vain! Then he would have had pleasure in seeing a massacre of 50,000 Frenchmon,

[.] M. Roustan no sooner mentioned the name of M. Briffor than there was a great plamour in the Assembly .- Several members exclaimed, "To prison with him !"





20,000 mulattoes, and 500,000 negroes, in the colony of St. Domingo only, rather than have facrificed what he calls a principle. I should conceive myself to be wounding the delicacy of the National Assembly, should I attempt to prove all the horrors these dreadful words convey!

(F.)

Extracts from the Speech of Mr. BERTRAND, Marine Minister of France, in the National Assembly, Dec. 19, 1791,

I HAVE explained to you, Sirs, the measures taken by the king, for affording relief to the inhabitants of St. Domingo, so soon as their calamity and danger were made known to his majesty: inadequate, doubtless, of themselves, their success depends wholly on their promptitude, and on the assurance that they shall be followed by others more effective. But, previous to these being determined upon, it was fitting we should know the true causes of the troubles which have led to this terrible catastrophe. I have neglected no means of discovering them, because by such discovery alone can we be directed in the application of those measures which are to prevent its return.

Some accuse the Colonists of wishing to surrender them. selves to the English, &c. &c.*

Others, on the contrary, see no other cause of their missortunes but in the incendiary writings, disseminated in the Colonies with a view to stir the negroes to revolt; in the correspondence maintained, for some time past, between the people of colour and a society called Philanthropists; sounded, say they, upon a system, destructive of all colonial property, and whose origin and principles are thus stated.

These accusations have been omitted by the translator, as being now generally discondited. See Mr. Bertrand's own opinion of them in the subsequent part of his speech.

It is easy to conceive, that a free people, always worthy of being so, must have selt an allow to its enjoyment of colonial establishments from the circumstance of their being founded on savery.

This fentiment of a generous and humane nation (certainly estimable, however just or well founded) was sure to gain ground, and a milder treatment of our negroes was its natural result.

But the philosophic spirit, so prevalent in France, aimed at farther conquests, and has been employed in strengthening, with all the sorce of argument, the theory of a sentiment, which, pethaps, might have been more prudently lest to its, own operations.

According to its dostrines, the Colonies, those pollettions. for which humanity has been wounded and justice fet afide, have not that value which cupidity has affixed to them, but, are ruinous to the deluded mother-country. The possibility. of replacing them by fettlements more contiguous, and under a climate more similar to our own; (that of Africa or the Mediterranean Islands for instance;) the necessity there must one day arise of religning possessions so distant, inha-. bited by men whole ingratitude and treachery there is reafon to forefee, &c. &c. all these motives united lead us to regard a voluntary abandonment as no more than an anticipation of events inevitable, with the advantage of a previous preparation and a provision of more durable resources. Our: wifer neighbours have made similar calculations respecting their North-American colonies, proving, by the fums expended in their defence, how burthenfome they have been.

Although such calculations (natural enough by way of consolation for having lost them) related only to the centi-nental colonies, resembling but in name the colonies of the American Archipelage, yet this difference did not strike every mind. Commercial policy appeared to second the dictates of humanity, and the number of the Philanthro-

piffs was swelled by all those, whose sensibility, in order to be excited, needed other stimulatives than those of philanthropy itself.

This is the fystem, (fay the planters,) which has eror roneously and cruelly occasioned those bloody scenes of which we are the victims. Follow, flep by flep, the or proceedings and effects of this profelyte-making zeal. " which began by preaching an abolition of flavery and unqualified liberty to our negroes; which then moderating its pretentions, the better to graduate its progress afked only a suppression of the trade; and which at laste with " a more plaufible and fecure aim, has feemed to confine its attention to the elevation of the people of colour, the "more effectualty to work our destruction. Will it not by " deemed impossible, that a system, assuming bumanity as its basis to should be capable of producing effects forcivel? Has not the 46 history of those very climates furnished us with a fact, a " reference to which cannot but do honour to the mail ferris of pulous philanthropiff? Iris to the humane and plous Las " Cazas that America owes her negroes a touched with the evels which his fellow-cinizens inflicted upon the native ce Caribbe, he fought in Africa for men already doomed to Azvery, who, without aggravation of milenyl and how a s fimple exchange of fetters, under a climate fimilar to " their own, might supply the place of the Americanis, es alike onfit for labour and for chains. If this pious millio-" nary was deceived by his humanity; if, to fave from he bour and flavery a remnant of the Caribbel he has been " the means of dooming to that lor millions of Africani, et let the modern philosophers, who cannot pretend purer "morives, see that they also fail not of their object. In their attempt, to put an end to the flavery of the negroes, " they may reduce to milery fixe or fix millions of their white fellow-citizens, friends and brethren, and may 6 2 111 G. 2 C ovesture

overturn the strongest pillars of the national prosperity;
mor will they do effectual good to those whom they wish
to serve. Without a concurrence of all the interested
powers, the Colonies have only to choose their protector,
the slaves their master. These last may, indeed, as they
have lately too dreadfully proved, attempt to cut the
throats of ourselves, our wives, and children, and of all
who are set over them; but it will be only that they may
exchange one servitude for another.

Such, Sire, are the arguments advanced, in their turns, by the planters and their antagonists. In my administrative capacity, folely, have I endeavoured to discriminate the causes, whatever they may be, which have led the way to the troubles in St. Domingo, that I might the more effectually apply the means of prevention.

As to the acculations, against the Colonists, of designs to submit themselves to the English; to render themselves independent; to effect a counter-revolution: — I know nothing; I have found nothing, in evidence, of projects, so culpable, extravagant, or absurd!

As to the accusation brought against the partisans of the liberty of the blackes — I cannot conceal that it appears much better sounded. But, whatever be the cause, where are we to look for the remedy of these disasters? How are we to prevent their repetition?

The first and most useful step is, doubtless, to become acquainted with our true interests, and real commercial relation with the colonies; since an ignorance of these principles has been the primary source of our errors and of their calamities.

We should consider our Colonies as so many manusactovies, established at 1800 leagues distance from the mothercountry, and the mother-country herself as the moneyed firm, which has surnished the expense of these establish-

ments of agriculture and industry, whether for their first four dation, maintenance, or protection. Every member of the mother-country is a flock-holder in this important speculation; to fhare the benefits of which, it is enough to have been born in France: and all French citizens, I repeat it, all are interested in its success, though in different degrees ? some as farmers or proprietors of lands, which, in whole or in part, are cultivated to supply the wants of these distant confumers, and who would be ruined without fo important demand for their produce; fome as embarked in various departments of industry, wholly or partially occupied in funplying the Colonies, and whose productions without them would remain on hand; fome, again, as commercial people, navigators, coasting traders, &cc. forming a third class, bufied in carrying on with the Colonies the connection of the other two. Whatever be our rank in this firm, whatever be the fum and nature of our shares, from the laborious husbandman to the lazy money-lender, from the industrious manufacturer to the useless stock-jobber, from the adventurous speculator to the cautious annuitant, all, yes, all, are interested in the fate of these valuable establishments, by whole aid even Calumny herfelf fells her poison to a profit.

Regulated and governed in whatever manner, there effablishments still keep their primitive character of an enterprise, in which the mother-country has embarked, and of

which she alone ought to reap the profit or the loss.

As to calculations of the sums these establishments have cost, supposing them not exaggerated, how are we to appreciate, in gold or in figures, the advantages which result to Europe from her Colonies? Is it possible we should be blind to the obvious increase of our population? the only true criterion of national prosperity, an infallible sign at once of the plenty of food and of the need of hands; for, men multiply where subsistence abounds and where labour invites.

Can we fail to fee, that an obligation to fell their produce only to the members of the mother-country, and to buy of shem alone every article they want, forms a double fource of riches, of which the measure is immense? In short, the Colonies take from us all they want at such prices as we please to impose a they return us a sufficiency of their valuable produce, not only to serve the consumption of twenty-five millions of inhabitants, but to form a very great surplus, which we sell with profit to the nations who have no Colonies of their own, And shall all these advantages be estimated by a series of figures, which, expressing only the relations of quantity, are applicable to pone but to material and inanimate objects?

Observe, Sirs, that the effect of such erroneous calculations, respecting our Colonies, must necessarily impose a retrograde counse upon the public fortune. It is not to most desate the speed, but to stop at ence the motion, of this powerful wheel, that we are invited. In an instant, we are to cut all the employed to move it; in an instant, we are to cut all the threade, which conduct us to such an immensity of wealth le Estimate, I before you, Sirs, the dreadful effects of such a sudden separation of such a sudden separation of such as sudden separation.

bililiaments fell keep their primitive character of an enterprife, in which the mother-country has embarked, and of which the along ought to yeap the profit on the bots.

As to calculations of the same their effablishments have colling further a them not exagginated, when my see to solve a color, in gold or in family, the colors which is family the color of the colors of the colors in the colors in the colors of the colors of the critical projection, an infallible fign of the or the plants of the colors of the colors of the plants of food not of the read of hards; for same multiply where facilities abound the lands; for same multiply where facilities abound the colors of the colors

(G.)

With the following Postscript to Mr. de Blanchelande's Letter, of the 30th of November, to the Minister of Marine, (which is among the latest authentic advices from St. Domingo,) the Translator closes this imperfect sketch of the miseries of the richest and most important Colony in the world.

66 THIS instant I have received a Letter from the Municipality of Port au Prince, of which I subjoin a copy. The truth of its contents has been confirmed to me by Mr. Saule de Saulnoir. Some curse from above has, I fear, been pronounced against this wretched Colony dooming it to entire destruction! Calamities of every description are surely to fall to its lot! A ray of hope, on the arrival of the Commisfioners fent by the National Affembly, feemed destined to foften my anxieties and my pain: that momentary satisfaction is now cruelly disturbed; and the more so as our situation in the northern province and the exhausted state of our resources form obstacles to my wishes of flying to the fuccour of the ravaged departments. But that would require Superior forces, and scarcely have we sufficient to maintain a humiliating defence. If our brethren in Europe come not speedily to our succour, what will become of us!"

THE END.

^{*} This letter gives an account of the burning of that rich and flourishing sown on the 22d of November. The most moderate estimation makes the loss, sustained on that occasion, 150,000,000 of livres.

tould not continued a least one should be not a go IVI a " segment of the property of the state of the second of th . The set and us to the figure as advantage of the set has never well as Service Land of the comment of the contract of - his not to a comment of the Comment of the say soon comply of the community rains there is an interfered, become by the · structural is broad and were filter on the Lecture contint milital of ben denring areas, where yet the missisted and indeer main el module, de uno se mos e e la ca umilias mismos en in the contract of the contrac . It was a great from the first to be a second of the seco -1-10001 05 gape 25 and a gradula antiquado acopa casasses one of the state o the second size of the first supply to the second standard in the state of the second state of the second

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TEERNO.

